This report will cover the process undertaken in creating the Sam Boyd’s website. I will also cover the major design decisions and design challenges that I faced whilst creating the site.

I initially started this assignment by creating a basic structure and framework for the Sam Boyd’s News webpage using HTML5 and CSS3. I wanted to create an initial framework of the News page so that I would be able to use it as a template when creating the other two web pages that were required. This would ensure that all the three pages were consistent in design and structure.

My next priority was to gather and implement resources such as colour-schemes, images and fonts. However, whilst implementing the background design I encountered an issue which caused Firefox to crash and not respond. After much debugging, I found that the CSS3 radial-gradient I used was causing Firefox to crash. This was because Firefox was unable to render the gradients efficiently throughout the whole page, but chrome was. Taking this issue with Firefox into consideration, I made a design decision to use an image for the background so that the webpage was able to render properly in Firefox.

During the development of the header, I found it a challenge to position the flower image overlapping the search button. I initially thought of achieving this effect by using z-index; however that was unsuccessful as the flower positioned next to the search button, and not overlapping it. Therefore I decided to use absolute positioning because I would be able to manipulate the position of the flower exactly as how I want it to be. With this I was able to achieve the desired effect of the flower being on top of the search button.

Creating the border design for the footer was also difficult as I did not know what to use in achieving a semi-transparent slashed striped effect. I initially tried to create the design by using a repeating image across the borders, however when viewing the page at 100% zoom the images were heavily pixelated due to their small size (10px by 10px). Therefore I took the design decision of creating the borders by using CSS3 linear-gradients. This enabled me to achieve the slashed striped effect by rotating the gradient by 45°, but the gradient lacked the semi-transparency because it is not possible to implement transparency on a rotated gradient.

After having completed the design of the News page, my priority shifted into making it fluid using media queries to reposition elements on the page based on the browser size. One major design decision that I undertook during this design process was to reposition all the elements from a two column structure into a single column structure. This decision was made so that the contents would not collapse down when the browser size narrows. This would allow the user to view the contents from top to bottom without having to scroll the page to the right.